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REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF LACONIA,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.



LACONIA, N. H.:

PRINTED AT THE DEMOCRAT OFFICE.

1872.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
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REPORT.

The Selectmen charge themselves with the following sums.

To Savings Bank tax	\$1,243 81
Railroad tax	1,058 23
Literary Fund	99 60
Insurance	7 50
S. M. Doe, collector's list, 1871	16,725 07
Cr. By paid State tax	\$2,409 14
Highways and Bridges for 1870	659 19
" " 1871	241 59
Breaking roads for 1870	102 96
" " 1871	97 45
Current Expenses for 1870	538 46
" " 1871	1,640 40
Abatements, S. M. Doe's List, 1871	257 44

Abatements Allowed.

On E. Q. Severence list, 1865,	27 75
" " 1866,	32 38
E. P. Osgood 1867,	87 19
T. L. Grant 1869,	37 00
O. G. Smith 1869,	42 25
" " 1870,	101 94
S. M. Doe 1870,	71 31

*Liabilities of Town March 1, 1872. as per
Treasurer's Report.*

Amount due from the town on notes \$30,913 09

Assets.

Cash in Treasury	\$1,942 78
D. Barnard, assignee	68 43
S. M. Doe, coll. list for 1870	35 51
" " " 1871,	921 15
Amount credited the town by the State in bonds on soldier's account	14,991 67
Government assignments considered of little or no value	3,920 00

The Selectmen having examined the accounts of Otes G. Smith, collector for the years 1869 and 1870, also, T. L. Grant for the year 1869, are unable to settle the same satisfactorily, and would therefore recommend that a committee be appointed to investigate and settle the same.

CHAS. F. ROBINSON,	}	Selectmen
ALMON C. LEAVITT,		of
FRANK M. ROLLINS.		Laconia.

Treasurer's Report.

The Town of Laconia in account with D. S. Dinsmore, Treasurer for the year ending March 1, 1872.

	CR.
By bal. from former Treasnrer	\$1,409 97
" Licences	30 00
" B. M. Sanborn, Bal. unexpended on Pauper Account	26 33
" Ranlet M ^y Co. Rent of Common	75 00
" E P Osgood Highway Tax on H. A. Gilman, Est.	3 37

By bal.	Taxes S. M. Doe Collector	15,487 90
"	" Oles G. Smith Col. 1869 and 1870	300 00
"	" E P Osgood Col. 1867	60 90
	Cash from notes payable	20345 50
Total receipts		\$37738 97

Dr.

To paid,	County Tax	2,579 16
"	balance of State Tax	938 86
		\$3,518 02

To paid B. M. Sanborn overseer of poor	400 00
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School Money.

To paid S. M. Doe Dis. No. 1	\$1207 46
“ D. S. Gale Dis. No. 2	596 84
“ S. S. Blaisdell Dis. No. 3	155 31
“ Chs. F. Robinson Dis. No. 3	54 03
“ M. B. Doe Dis. No. 4	73 67
“ Myron Gray Dis. No. 5	77 94
	\$2165 25

Highways and Bridges.

To paid John M. Robinson	38 33
" T. L. Grant Land damages Maloon and others for Pitman St.	40 00
" John Watson, plank &c. on cross road from J. S. Wadleigh to E. Cate's	11 55
" J. P. Pitman 2d Labor dis. No. 3	45 05

To paid B. J. Cole & Co. materials for New	
Bridge Lake Village	51 37
" F. M. Rollins Paint for same	6 56
" J. J. Whitten & Co. painting same	17 75
" Geo. A. Wilder spikes and nails for	
same	50 42
" M. W. Blaisdell labor No. 5	6 00
" E. B. Prescott " " 3, 1870	14 57
" S. H. Lawrence " "	4 00
" B. S. George " "	4 50
" Pitman & Tilton stock for Painting	
New Bridge	40 72
" C. F. & Jacob Sanborn breaking roads	70 40 00
" James Filgate " '71 & '72,	16 37
" J. G. Dow " '70	15 75
" Eben S. Sanborn " "	8 00
" J. R. Gray " '71	10 40
" Samuel S. Blaisdell " '70	16 20
" Manning W. Blaisdell " No. 5	30 70
" J. P. Pitman 2d " " 7	23 50
" Chas. F. Robinson " " 8	13 00
" David Blaisdell " " 9	10 79
" B. H. Whittier stone for bankwall No.	
3 '70	26 75
" John Edwards repairing bridge '70	19 00
	561 28

Notes and interest.

To paid Mary A. Folsom	166 85
Gordon Burleigh	234 14
Abigail Pitman	546 69
" "	109 34
" "	535 83
Rufus Smith	159 39

To pd. Richard Rowe	100 68
“ “	815 60
Nathaniel Veasey	1,946 09
Laura S. J. Bartlett	358 19
Betsey Bean	1,162 31
Morrill Hunt	209 00
Clara E. Clark	844 64
Hiram Cross	479 44
Clarissa L. F. Sanborn	1062 32
Lucy C. Sawyer	2,682 50
Charles P. St. Clair	586 25
Charlotte Morgan	990 28
“ “	424 69
Rufus Smith	112 42
“ “	228 19
Wm. H. Sanborn	557 00
Thomas Ham, S. B. interest	92 40
Arthur S. Ladd “	17 50
J. P. Atkinson “	36 00
Richard Rowe “	30 55
Wm. H. Sanborn “	7 00
F. H. Evans “	18 68
Irene Smith “	30 00
Eliza Davis “	287 71
Thomas Ham “ “	11 00
Stephen C. Robinson, int.	68 93
Hannah James	184 77
Joseph G. Folsom	106 00
Thomas J. Robinson	433 60
Jonathan G. Dow	373 61
Ezekiel B. Lawrence	399 25
John L. Robinson	540 60
Martha M. P. Atkinson	1,492 96
Charles Smith	1,073 00
Charles P. StClair	539 97

To pd. Lake Village Savings Bank	1,500 00
John P. Smith	742 00
John L. Robinson	1,272 00
	\$23,569 37

Miscellaneous Expenses.

To paid Alpheus Dolloff Bill	565 88
" Lovell, Gale & Co. Rent of room	1 88
" B. P. Gale services as Town Clerk	70 50 00
" Ami L. Willey special police	24 00
" Frank D. Folsom	18 00
" J. C. Stalbird	2 00
" John O. Stevens	19 50
" N. Johnson Jr. Books and Stationary	12 43
" A. C. Dow Damage of cow by dogs	20 00
" A. G. Folsom use of hall	60 00
" Hayes Lougee obtaining affidavits of soldiers	10 00
" F. M. Rollins Agt.	50 00
" F. M. Rollins services as Selectman	115 00
" Ami L. Willey special night watch	2 00
" Myron Merill	2 00
" D. O. Burleigh	2 00
" Whitney and Dwinells Teams	20 00
" D. S. Gale Niagara Engine Co.	45 00
" G. F. Loavitt Torrent	290 00
" Albert Colby Police	15 00
" Thomas Ham services as Civil Engineer	27 00
" Wm. J. Severance sheep killed by dogs	5 00
" H. H. Taylor horse hire 1870	9 50
" D. S. Gale Niagara Engine Co.	300 00
" J. C. French services as health officer	10 00
" " Field driver	5 00

To paid	B M Sanborn expense of committee of inquisition Apphia Craft and M A Johnson	14 00
"	Geo W Stevens professional services	80 00
"	Thomas J Whipple "	64 00
"	B. P. Gale services as Town clerk	50 00
"	Belknap Savings Bank rent of room	50 00
"	SC Clark legal services	31 50
"	J G Dow sheep killed 1870	3 50
"	King S Hall services as school com- mittee	45 75
"	C Y DeNormandie "	49 68
"	O A J Vaughan Printing	38 00
"	J R Champlin board of Selectmen	31 20
"	Hugh Blaisdell injury from defect in highway	10 00
"	F H Coffin Printing 1870	7 75
"	T L Grant services as Selectman 1870	19 85
"	Charles F Robinson "	130 00
"	A C Leavitt "	120 00
"	F M Rollins "	77 00
"	E P Osgood " 1868	17 25
"	Charles F Robinson cash paid out	6 00
"	A C Leavitt "	5 37
"	Elihu Davis damage to sheep by dogs	6 00
"	George E Chase police services	11 92
"	A J Hart "	100 00
"	Polly Smith tax returned, taxed twice in 1870	30 80
"	J S Howe horse hire	5 75
"	Geo. W Woodes health officer 1870 1871	20 00
"	Thomas Ham Lake Village fire district	158 71
"	C C Davis school house money No. 2	274 13
"	B S Dinsmore " " 1	2392 92

To paid Treasurer's Salary 50 00

\$5582 27

Recapitulation.

Receipts.

From Notes	20,345 50
" Taxes	15,852 17
" other sources	1,541 30
	\$37,738 97

Expenditures.

For taxes	3,518 02
" paupers	400 00
" schools	2,165 25
" highways and bridges	561 28
" notes and interest	23,569 37
" micellaneous expenses	5,582 27
" balance in treasury	1,942 78
	\$37,738 97

D. S. DINSMOOR, Treasurer.

We have examined the foregoing accounts, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

GEORGE L. MEAD, }
F. W. REEVES, } Auditors.

Notes and Interest due from Town March 1, 1872.

Nancy Sawyer	\$534 32	Daniel Sanborn	293 30
Charles Smith	212 00	Clarinda Smith	571 25
Alvah T Swain	278 05	Stephen A Newell	284 10
Jos. P Atkinson	618 00	Chas. P StClair	1125 31
Eliza Davis	1000 00	Judith Maxfield	106 00
Irene Smith	530 00	Arthur S Ladd	265 00
Carrie Bartlett	369 80	Stephen A Newell	265 00
Noah Robinson	360 87	Charlotte Cate	165 60
Arthur S Ladd	682 08	John R Sawyer	1315 46
S C Robinson	800 00	N B Swain	530 00
Nancy Sawyer	172 69	Jacob Smith	212 00
Mrs D L Davis	132 51	Olive M Peavy	147 35
Stephen A Newell	411 47	F A Evans	1523 22
Note No. 1	3447 52	13	1427 72
2	525 08	14	1015 80
3	130 87	15	328 57
4	209 00	16	1510 25
6	1031 00	17	301 90
7	103 03	19	100 60
8	824 00	20	603 40
9	490 29	21	705 13
10	974 07	22	1201 80
11	2723 14		
12	51 53	Total notes and Inter-	
18	303 00	est	\$30,913 09

Pauper Account.

Town of Laconia in account with B. M. Sanborn
Overseer of the Poor.

Cash received of the County of Belknap	1,141 04
" Town of Gilford	145 18
" " Sanbornton	62 19
" Treasurer of Laconia	400 00
	1,748 41

Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid old bills at Reform School for 1869	
and 1870	633 72

A. G. Young, sexton, burying widow Dockham, 1870	3 00
Dr. Prescott, medical aid to widow Dockham, 1870	38 30
Horace Whicher, team at funeral of widow Dockham, 1870	3 00
S. B. Smith, clothing for Frank M. Piper, '70	15 88
Taylor L Grant cash paid out for Frank M Piper, 1870.	7 05
Pitman & Tilton, goods to Stephen M. Willey, 1869	9 57
T. O. Donnell, goods for Murphy family	15 33
G A Wilder goods for Murphy family	3 00
B M Sanborn wood	6 00
H H Buzzell boarding Mary J Welch	13 75
Dr. Goss Doctoring	6 00
Reform School	206 88
N H Asylum for the Insane for Charles L Young	47 67
S B Maloon boarding Hannah Gilman from March 1, 1871 to March 1, 1872	65 00
Joseph Poirie boarding Lizzie DeShano	14 00
Dr. Prescott Doctoring	9 45
O A J Vaughan advertising Charles L Young	1 50
J C French team and time after Charles L Young	9 00
A C Leavitt for	3 00
G L Young	16 71
County of Belknap for Charles L Young and Mary Ann Johnson	93 00
Town of Gilford for Parshley Child	1 50
Dr Goss and others for F A Leavitt and family	62 19
J D Bean and others aid to Jennie McCormick	48 93
J Gilbert for coffin, expenses burying Marian Girl	23 00
Dr. Goss doctoring S D Davis family	15 00
" Brown " Merrill Child	6 00
E A Hibbard Attorney fees in suit vs. the town of Gilford	12 85
Esther Deshano nursing Delena Rogers	12 00
Dr. Goss pr. contract one year	10 00
" Prescott	10 00
Mary H Fernald boarding and nursing Hiram L. Drew	175 00

Dr. Prescott aid	47 80
B M Sanborn Cash paid for team railroad fare and other expenses	27 00
B M Sanborn services as overseer of poor	50 00
Treasurer of Laconia	26 33
	\$1,748 41

You will see by a careful examination of the above account that the actual cost of the poor of the Town for the past year has been three hundred and sixty-two dollars and twenty-three cents, including my services and expenses, and the balance that has come into my hands has been paid out on old bills at the Reform School and County paupers, as appears by the above dates.

B. M. SANBORN, Overseer of the Poor.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the citizens of Laconia:—

In compliance with the law of New Hampshire in regard to education, your committee respectfully submit the following report: There is no subject on which our citizens are called to act equal in importance to that of our schools. To those who are now being educated in our common schools, all the interests of our country are soon to be committed. They are to accept the duties and assume the responsibilities of citizens; they are to have the honor of the state, her material prosperity, her institutions, civil, political, educational and charitable, all in their hands. The moral atmosphere, whatever it may be, the *children of to-day*, will soon create; the policy of State and Nation, they will shape; the laws that are to govern us, they will enact. With just such preparation as these little nurseries of intelligence afford, will the vast majority of our children take upon themselves these important trusts. Whether they come to these weighty duties and grave responsibilities with a tolerable understanding of what is required of them, and so handle these important trusts as wise men rather than as fools, must depend in a large measure upon the character of our schools. A Republic has her chief corner-stone laid in the intelligence of her people; and the perpetuity of free institutions, and the general welfare of society, are largely dependent on our system of education.

Realizing all this, *and more*, we have labored without much cooperation, but with many provoking hindrances, some of which will appear, to promote the efficiency of our schools.

In the division of the labor, districts 2, 4 and 5 were assigned to Rev. K. S. Hall; and 1 and 3 to the chairman, thus placing four schools under the immediate charge of each. This distribution did not preclude either of the committee from visiting the schools not in his special charge, or making such suggestions as their necessities seemed to demand, and throughout the year we have consulted each other for the general good. We do not claim any surprising success for our efforts, nor do we pretend that the schools have been perfect; but confess with sorrow, that in some respects they have been defective. There has not been anything that could be characterize as *failure*, however, on the part of any teacher, but a fair degree of success has rewarded the labors of all, while some have been remarkably accurate and thorough. Where there has been anything to regret, in *most* instances, it could be traced to a want of proper interest on the part of parents.

A few statistics we think will prove the accuracy of this statement, and do more to convince our citizens that some reform is needed, than a labored argument. In the town there are 380 children between 4 and 14 years of age; and of these 28—or 7 and about one third per cent. of the whole number have not been in school at all. Of those attending school, the average has been just 75 per cent.—so that one quarter of the time has been thrown away, and one quarter of the school money squandered. In addition to this we have 2109 cases of tardiness, and 424 cases of dismissal recorded—while nearly one third of the Registers make no record whatever of tardiness or dismissal. To whose charge shall this great loss of time, and reckless waste of money be laid, but to the parents who do not send their children to school at all, or, who for trivial causes, allow them to absent themselves? No teacher can be satisfied with such a state of things; the work which *might* be done were the scholars punctual, is not accomplished; and yet the difficulty lies back of the pupil, in the *home*, and is beyond the reach of any remedial agency the teacher can use. It is proper to say, however, that this statement of low percentage, does injustice to the majority of scholars. It is largely produced by a few subjects of parental neglect, who are allowed to drift about the town, and grow up in ignorance; who are schooled in vice, untaught in knowledge and virtue. Is there not some way to rid the streets of these pernicious idlers, and compel their regular and punctual attendance at school?

The subjoined statistical table will give all necessary details in regard to the different districts; the amount of money, the length of the terms, the number of pupils and the average attendance, so we have not thought it best to dwell on them separately, or to speak of the peculiarities of the different schools or teachers. In a brief sentence, with no opportunity for explanation or qualification, great injustice is often done to teachers, and the public are left to regard them in too favorable, or too *unfavorable* a light. Our teachers, throughout the state are largely female,—they are women, having womanly sensibility and delicacy of feeling, and why should we wound the feelings of one by praise or censure, or damage the reputation of another, as teacher, by some implied fault or defect, some half-timisted objection, when the difficulty only lies, perhaps, in the mind of the writer of the report, or in some peculiarity of situation, over which the teacher has no control whatever. Indeed, what class of respectable men would allow the publication of such personalities as are freely published, all over our state, in regard to teachers. We admit the right, nay—the necessity of healthy criticism, for the sake of advancing the interests of our schools. If a teacher is incompetent, from any cause, let the committee say so, but we object to such personalities as are often indulged in, and fail to see how an implied censure, after the school is finished, or an unfavorable criticism, possibly the result of prejudice—or seeing the school on one of the unfortunate days that will occur under the best teachers, is to result in any benefit. Suffice it to say that most of the teachers have done all that could reasonably have been expected, while some have been particularly faithful; their teaching characterized by exactness, and they have shown a strong desire to advance their pupils. Of those employed, one has been called to R. I. at greatly increased remuneration; one came from the Normal School at Plymouth, highly recommended by all the teachers, who justified our expectations that she would do well; one who was particularly accurate in her knowledge, and careful to teach nothing for a child to *unlearn*, has gone thither to prepare herself for greater usefulness; and one taught for the first time—whose success must have gratified her friends, who gives promise of future excellence, and who deserves a larger and more advanced school.

Some of the text books in use are objectionable, but could not be removed under the Statute which regulates the introduction of new books, and therefore, the committee have done nothing in this matter except to introduce "Colburn's Intellectual Arithmetic." This book we think should take the place of all other primary arithmetics, and its use should be continued through all the grades of our common schools.

Greater care should be exercised in the selection of prudential committees, as our schools are practically in their hands, and the character of the school must be determined in a measure by the intelligence, good judgment, and practical wisdom of the committee. Those persons should be more careful also in regard to the return of registers. The law requires a certificate from the Superintending Committee that the register has been properly filed out and returned, and no teacher can legally draw pay without such certificate. The prudential committee are held personally responsible in this matter, and the omissions in some of the registers are such as to compel us to direct attention to this statute.

The cost of the schools in the town has averaged \$5.92 per pupil—while in the city of Manchester it amounted to \$13.12½. The length of our schools in weeks, has been in the aggregate 205, giving an average of 41 weeks to each district, or 25¾ weeks to each school. The greatest length of school was in district No. 1, which amounted to 97 weeks, or 32½ weeks to each school—the shortest, was in district No. 4, which was 10 weeks. In closing our report, permit us to commend our schools to your interest and care. In them, principally, your children are to find their culture; upon them our future prosperity depends; their improvement is something to rejoice in, and a prophecy of good.

C. Y. DENORMANDIE, } SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
K. S. HALL. }

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Summer School.

No. of District.	Grade of School.	Names of Teachers.	Wages per Month.	Length of School in Weeks.	Whole No. of Pupils.	Average Attendance.	No of children attending to the following studies.			
							Reading.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.
1	Grammar.	Luvan A. Harriman,	48 00	20	40	28	40	39	21	33
	Intermed'i	Sarah E. Sturtevant,	34 00	19	50	33	50	50	50	
	Primary.	C. M. Lamprey,	31 00	21	52	37	52	18		
2	Grammar.	Eliza A. Doe,	36 00	20	32	25	32	27	25	10
	Primary.	Laurenia A. Gale,	34 00	20	64	46	56	21		
3		Martha E. Doe,	24 00	11	19	14	19	18	8	2
4		L. H. Meader,	28 00	10	13	11	13	8	3	3
5		E. D. Sanborn,	26 00	8	8	6	8	8		

Winter School.

1	Grammar.	Luvan A. Harriman,	48 00	12	33	25	33	32	13	31
	Intermed'i	Sarah E. Sturtevant,	34 00	12	41	30	41	41	41	
	Primary.	C. M. Lamprey,	31 00	12	42	30	42	15	6	
2	Grammar.	S. E. Kingsbury,	36 00	10	42	35	42	42	33	15
	Primary.	Laurenia A. Gale,	34 00	10	59	48	59	30	13	
3		Martha E. Doe,	24 00	11	18	14	18	17	7	6
4		No winter school.								
5		Eliza A. Doe.	30 00	8	15	13	15	10	7	9

Of the whole number of children, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were not in school at all. Of those attending, the average was only 75 per cent.; 25 per cent. of time lost and money thrown away.

There were 2109 cases of tardiness, and 424 cases of dismissal.

